



**Meeting of the Interagency Ecological Program and the  
Management Level Advisory Group**

**September 22, 2011, 9 AM – 12 PM**

Senator Hotel Office Building, Suite 1045

1121 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions – 10 min  
Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, USBR and Val Connor, SFWCA
2. 2012 IEP Budget and Work Plan – 15 min  
Kelly Souza, DFG
3. IEP Science and Next Steps – 20 min  
Anke Mueller-Solger, DSC
4. Adaptive Management of Fall Outflow for Delta Smelt Protection and Water Supply Reliability – 30 min  
Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, USBR
5. Delta Smelt ‘First Flush’ Migration Study – 20 min  
Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, USBR
6. Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station – 15 min  
Ted Sommer, DWR
7. State and Federal Water Contractors Agency Science Projects – 20 min  
Val Connor, SFWCA
8. Group Discussion on Role and Future of the MLAG – 30 min  
Bruce Herbold, USEPA

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!**

The Management Level Advisory Group, or MLAG, is the stakeholder group for the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP). *“The IEP MLAG consists of IEP agency representatives and stakeholders who do not participate regularly in IEP activities, but use information and data developed by the IEP for the management and regulation of the water quality and biological resources of the San Francisco Estuary. The MLAG meets approximately twice a year to hear about IEP monitoring and research activities and to discuss issues of concern to MLAG members”*

The IEP staff is interested in communicating with IEP stakeholders. This agenda reflects a renewed focus on providing stakeholders with updates on IEP activities. The agenda items will provide an update on current IEP monitoring and assessment efforts. Feedback is encouraged. Meetings of the MLAG are open to the public. Times indicated in the agenda are approximate. The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Handouts, presentations, and related meeting and MLAG information will be available prior to the meeting at <http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/about/advisory.cfm>

Remote access to the meeting will be available via WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, Go to:  
<https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=171316447&UID=492085052&PW=NYWVjMTM4ZDc3&RT=MiM0>, enter your name and email address, enter the meeting password “MLAG”, click “Join Now” and follow the instructions that appear on your screen (meeting number is 745 846 437). You may log in up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager the first time you join a WebEx meeting. Participation by teleconference only is available by dialing 1-203-566-9223 and entering the attendee access code 4091403.

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  2. On the left navigation bar, click "Support".

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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	10 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	Introductions, consideration of agenda, recap of previous IEP-MLAG meeting.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Attachment Links:</b>		
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse and Val Connor	<a href="mailto:EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov">EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:vconnor@sfcwa.org">vconnor@sfcwa.org</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	IEP 2012 Annual Budget and Workplan - Core Program	15 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	<p>Explain the three major components of the IEP funding categories and the 2012 Draft Annual Workplan. The <i>IEP Core Program</i> – Bay-Delta monitoring that provides key long-term and real-time data sets used in many studies, status and trends assessments, daily water project operations, and studies that fulfill regulatory purposes. Most of this monitoring is required by State Water Right Permits or Federal Biological Opinions for the coordinated operation of the State and Federal Water Projects. 2011 program: 30 projects, \$16.8 million.</p> <p><a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/activities/monitoring.cfm">http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/activities/monitoring.cfm</a></p>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	MLAG members review 2012 core budget and relay any concerns or provide input or suggestions for the 2012 research component of the program or the 2013 program.	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   Interagency Science Update to NRC - June </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   2012 Table 2A - September 7, 2011_r </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   2012 Overall Transfer v3 Septemb </div> </div>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Kelly Souza	<a href="mailto:ksouza@dfg.ca.gov">ksouza@dfg.ca.gov</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>IEP Science - Status and Next Steps</b>	20 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	The IEP Lead Scientist will provide a summary of the most recent fish indices and IEP publications, and discuss three recently formed IEP project work teams. Participation in a work team is the best way to provide input during the early stages of a monitoring or research project.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Link:</b>	<a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/pod/synthesis_reports_workplans.cfm">http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/pod/synthesis_reports_workplans.cfm</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Anke Mueller-Solger	<a href="mailto:ANKE.MUELLER-SOLGER@DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV">ANKE.MUELLER-SOLGER@DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>Adaptive Management of Fall Outflow for Delta Smelt Protection and Water Supply Reliability</b>	30 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	<p>In 2008, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a Biological Opinion (BiOp) on Central Valley Project (CVP)/State Water Project (SWP) operations that concluded that aspects of those operations jeopardize the continued existence of delta smelt and adversely modify delta smelt critical habitat. Among other requirements, the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) that was issued with the BiOp calls for the adaptive management of fall Delta outflow following “wet” and “above normal” water-years. The Service determined that the Fall outflow element of the RPA is required to alleviate both jeopardy to delta smelt and adverse modification of delta smelt critical habitat. The Fall outflow action is expected to increase the abiotic habitat area, improve habitat suitability and contribute to a higher average population growth rate of delta smelt.</p>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/index.html">http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/index.html</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse	<a href="mailto:EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov">EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>Delta Smelt 'First Flush' Migration Study</b>	20 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	<p>The delta smelt (<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>) is a small pelagic fish endemic to the San Francisco Estuary. Although it was once abundant, the numbers of delta smelt have declined dramatically over the last two decades such that it is now protected under the California State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. As a result, delta smelt have become a major focus of environmental and water management. However, even with accelerated efforts to understand the ecology of this species, several key gaps remain in the knowledge of delta smelt life history, habitat preferences, and the factors limiting its abundance. In particular, little is known about its spawning ecology, including its annual spawning migration from the brackish Suisun Bay region into the freshwater Delta. Also urgently needed are innovative management strategies that can effectively reduce entrainment of delta smelt in the major state and federal water export facilities located in the south Delta. Although the role of such mortality in the decline of the species is a subject of vigorous debate, entrainment of delta smelt often restricts export operations and interferes with allocations of fresh water throughout California.</p> <p>The goal of this 4-year study is to provide information on the extent to which changes in salinity and turbidity trigger the spawning migration of delta smelt.</p> <p>Drs. Bill Bennett and Jon Burau are the PIs for this project.</p>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   Dsmeltturb </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   dsmeltturb2 </div> </div>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse	<a href="mailto:EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov">EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>RIO VISTA ESTUARINE RESEARCH STATION (RVERS)</b>	15 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	The IEP would like to keep the State and Federal water contractors abreast of our progress on this forefront.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	 RVERS_Brochure 2011.pdf	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ted Sommer	<a href="mailto:TSOMMER@WATER.CA.GOV">TSOMMER@WATER.CA.GOV</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>State and Federal Contractors Water Agency Science Projects</b>	20 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	One of the purposes of the IEP is to enhance the coordination of Delta Science. The State and Federal Water Contractors Agency initiated a Coordinated Science Program for the water contractors in 2010. Although not part of the IEP, SFCWA Science projects frequently involve coordination with IEP member agencies. A summary of current Science Program projects will be provided.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information Exchange	
<b>Attachments:</b>		
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Val Connor	<a href="mailto:vconnor@sfcwa.org">vconnor@sfcwa.org</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>Group Discussion on Role and Future of MLAG</b>	30 minutes
<b>Background and Purpose:</b>	<p>Stakeholder interest in IEP monitoring and special studies has increased significantly because of the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD), and the recognition that the Delta ecosystem has undergone a fundamental regime shift. In addition, water quality managers have responded to the current Delta crisis through a series of legislative and regulatory actions, including the Delta legislation of 2009, the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP), and the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).</p> <p>Stakeholders want to have a better understanding of the IEP and to know more about what research the IEP is coordinating. Stakeholders would like to see the relationship between the IEP and the MLAG become a real “participatory” process that enhances communication, coordination and collaboration. This discussion is intended to explore what types of information and input both IEP and stakeholders would find valuable, and determine how to best achieve that with existing resources.</p>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	<p>The IEP Coordinators would like to receive suggestions on how stakeholder involvement can be improved, when and how frequent meetings should be, how IEP can best promote collaborative science in this era of heightened management, and how scientific efforts (in the estuary but outside of the IEP) can be better coordinated with the IEP.</p>	
<b>Attachments:</b>		
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Bruce Herbold	<a href="mailto:HERBOLD.BRUCE@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV">HERBOLD.BRUCE@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV</a>
<b>Notes:</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
<b>Action Items:</b>		